Remarks

Claims 4 and 19 were previously cancelled. Claims 1-3, 5-18 and 20 are pending in this application. The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 5-18 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,282,601 to Goodman et al. (hereinafter "Goodman") in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0061259 to Heddes et al. (hereinafter "Heddes"). Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejections.

A. Remarks Regarding Rejection of Claims 1-3, 5-18, and 20 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

To establish prima facie obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. In re Royka, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974). "All words in a claim must be considered in judging the patentability of that claim against the prior art." In re Wilson, 424 F.2d 1382, 1385, 165 USPQ 494, 496 (CCPA 1970). If an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious. In re Fine, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

The combination of Goodman and Heddes fails to teach or suggest all the claim limitations of independent claims 1, 8, and 15. Specifically, the combination fails to teach or suggest that "each of the processors is operable to enter an interrupt mode." Examiner states that Goodman does not teach this limitation and relies on Heddes to provide this limitation. (Office Action at 2.) However, Heddes does not discuss interrupts whatsoever. Heddes is directed to "a semaphore system that enables one entity to lock multiple semaphores simultaneously." (Heddes at ¶ [0008].) Heddes is not directed to processors operable to enter an interrupt mode.

Heddes also discusses that the semaphores are assigned to a *thread* of a multiprocessing unit. (Heddes at ¶ [0009].) (emphasis added) Clearly the semaphores of Heddes

are not associated with a processor but rather are associated with a thread. Also, while Heddes discusses storage of semaphores, Heddes does not discuss "a uniquely addressable semaphore in memory is associated with each processor" so as to indicate "whether the associated processor has exited the interrupt mode" as required by the independent claims. The Examiner points to semaphore value storage 21 as disclosing this limitation. (Office Action at 2-3.) Yet, the semaphore value storage 21 is designed to have two registers with the first register holding the semaphore value "that can be locked by the associated thread" and the second register indicated whether the associated semaphore value is locked or unlocked. (Heddes at ¶ [0018].) Heddes also discusses that "each thread has more than one assigned register in the semaphore value storage and is thus identified as the source of the semaphore value requested." (Heddes ¶ [0019].) The value of the semaphore in Heddes does not indicate whether the associated process has exited the interrupt mode but rather indicates the bit value which the thread wishes to lock. (Heddes at ¶ [0019].) For at least these reasons, Heddes does not disclose the above referenced limitations.

As Goodman in combination with Heddes fails to teach or suggest each and every element of independent claims 1, 8, and 15, Goodman in combination with Heddes does not anticipate these claims. Applicant respectfully submits that these independent claims are allowable. Additionally, Applicant submits that dependent claims 2-3, 5-7, 9-14, 16-18, and 20 are allowable, as they depend from otherwise allowable base claims.

B. **Remarks Regarding Rejection of Dependent Claims 2-3, 5-7, 9-14, 16-18, and 20 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103**

The rejection of dependent claims 2-3, 5-7, 9-14, 16-18, and 20 will not be discussed individually herein, as each of these claims depends, either directly or indirectly, from an otherwise allowable base claim.
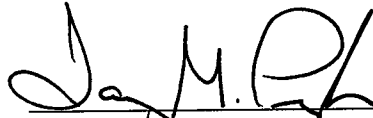
C. **No Waiver**

All of Applicant's arguments and amendments are without prejudice or disclaimer. Additionally, Applicant has merely discussed example distinctions from the cited references. Other distinctions may exist, and Applicant reserves the right to discuss these additional distinctions in a later Response or on Appeal, if appropriate. By not responding to additional statements made by examiner, Applicant does not acquiesce to examiner's additional statements, such as, for example, any statements relating to what would be obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art. The example distinctions discussed by Applicant are sufficient to overcome the anticipation rejections.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims 1-3, 5-18 and 20 of the present invention, as amended, are allowable. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of the pending claims be withdrawn and that these claims be passed to issuance.

Respectfully submitted,

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